

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for positioning a plurality of new piles and a new pile cap underneath an existing bridge assembly, the existing bridge assembly having load-bearing and non-load-bearing components, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) defining an access area in the assembly by removing a portion of the non-load-bearing components of the assembly and by maintaining a substantial portion of the load-bearing components;
 - b) installing the plurality of new piles through the access area; and
 - c) inserting the new pile cap into a gap defined between ends of the piles and the assembly by alternatingly supporting the new pile cap through the access area.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (a) comprises removing a plurality of cross-ties and a plurality non-load-bearing stingers.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) comprises driving a center pile and two opposing outer piles into the ground.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) comprises the step of removing proximal ends of the new piles to define the gap.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (c) comprises the steps of:
lowering the new pile cap parallel to a side of the assembly, and
rotating the pile cap perpendicular to the assembly prior to inserting the pile cap into the gap.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein lowering the pile cap parallel to the side of the assembly comprises rotating a boom of a crane less than or equal to 20-degrees from an axial centerline of the assembly.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (c) comprises the step of incrementally moving the new pile cap into the gap by changing support of the new pile cap through the access area at a plurality of positions.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein changing the support of the pile cap through the access area at the plurality of positions comprises the steps of:

supporting a plurality of retractable members to a cable of a crane; and
alternatingly connecting at least two of the retractable members to a plurality of support positions on the pile cap.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of temporarily supporting the pile cap on at least two of the new piles when alternatingly connecting the at least two retractable members.

10-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A method of moving a component underneath a bridge assembly with a cable, the bridge assembly having an access area defined therethrough, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) connecting at least one of a plurality of points on the component to the cable;
- b) moving the component below the bridge assembly with the cable above the bridge assembly by moving the connection between the component and the cable through the access area; and
- c) alternating the connection of one or more of the points on the component to the cable when an obstruction of the access area is encountered while moving the component.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of defining the access area in the bridge assembly by removing a portion of non-load-bearing components of the bridge assembly and by maintaining a portion of load-bearing components of the bridge assembly, where the portion of load-bearing components define the obstruction of the access area.
29. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of installing a plurality of piles through the access area prior to moving the component below the bridge assembly.
30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of moving the component below the bridge assembly with the cable above the bridge assembly comprises the steps of:
lowering the component adjacent a side of the bridge assembly, and
inserting at least a portion of the component below the bridge assembly until the connection between the component and the cable encounters the obstruction of the access area.
31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the steps of alternating the connection of one or more of the points on the component to the cable when the obstruction of the access area is encountered while moving the component comprises the steps of:
connecting the component to the cable at another of the plurality of points on the component; and
removing the connection of the component to the cable at the point on the component that is encountering the obstruction.
32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of connecting the at least one of the plurality of points on the component to the cable comprises the steps of:
supporting a bar to the cable;
positioning a plurality of movable rods on the bar; and
connecting at least one of the movable rods to one of the points on the component.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein alternating the connection of the one or more of the points on the component to the cable when the obstruction of the access area is encountered while moving the component comprises the steps of:

- moving the rods between extended and retracted positions on the bar; and
- connecting the extended rods to the points on the component.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein connecting the at least one of the movable rods to one of the points on the component comprises the step of threading an end of the movable rod in a threaded opening on the component.

35. (New) A method of moving a component underneath a bridge assembly with a device, the bridge assembly having an access area defined therethrough, the device having a movable bar with a plurality of rods movably positioned thereon, the bar moved by a cable, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) supporting the bar to the cable;
- b) supporting the component to the cable by connecting one or more of the rods on the bar to the component;
- c) moving the component below the bridge assembly with the bar above the bridge assembly such that the one or more rods pass through the access area of the bridge assembly; and
- d) moving the component past an obstruction of the access area by connecting one or more additional rods to the component and disconnecting the one or more rods encountering the obstruction of the access area.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of defining the access area in the bridge assembly by removing a portion of non-load-bearing components of the bridge assembly and by maintaining a portion of load-bearing components of the bridge assembly, where the portion of load-bearing components define the obstruction of the access area.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of installing a plurality of piles through the access area prior to moving the component below the bridge assembly.

38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein supporting the bar to the cable comprises the step of connecting at least one of the rods on the bar to the cable.

39. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein supporting the component to the cable by connecting the one or more of the rods on the bar to the component comprises the step of threading the one or more rods in threaded openings on the component.

40. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of moving the component below the bridge assembly and the bar above the bridge assembly such that the one or more rods pass through the access area of the bridge assembly comprises the steps of:

lowering the component adjacent a side of the bridge assembly, and
passing at least a portion of the component below the bridge assembly until the one or more rods encounter the obstruction of the access area.

41. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein connecting the one or more additional rods to the component and disconnecting the one or more rods encountering the obstruction of the access area comprises the steps of:

moving the rods between extended and retracted positions on the bar; and
connecting the extended rods to the component.